

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Mostly sunny, 74°F (23°C)
Tonight: Clear and calm, 61°F (16°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 83°F (28°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 127, Number 40

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, September 21, 2007

Boston Area Student MIT Solar 7 Team Builds 'Zero Reportedly Sexually Energy' Home For D.C. Contest Assaulted on Campus

By Ivana Lucero

A university student reported she was sexually assaulted on the MIT campus in the early morning of Sept. 16.

In an e-mail sent to the MIT community, President Susan Hockfield said that "a Boston university student reported that she was sexually assaulted" after leaving a party at Senior House early Sunday morning. The student was reportedly attacked by a group of "5 or 6 neatly dressed white males in their early 20's" near Amherst Street and Kendall Square around 3:45 a.m. Sunday morning, according to an MIT Police bulletin.

"We do not currently have any indication that any MIT students were

involved in the attack," Hockfield said in the e-mail. "I am appalled and saddened at the thought that such an event could occur on or near our campus. MIT will continue to do everything that we can to help bring the police investigation and any resulting process to a timely and just conclusion."

Cambridge Police declined to comment, saying that the MIT Police are handling the case. MIT Chief of Police John DiFava said he could not comment because Massachusetts law makes it illegal for him to divulge information on sexual assault cases due to the sensitive nature of privacy

Assault, Page 18

MIT Gives Charles River Volunteer Group \$6,000 To Decontaminate Boat

By Nick Semenkovich
NEWS EDITOR

MIT has donated \$6,000 to the Charles River Cleanup Boat, the volunteer organization faced with bills for decontamination and boat repair after its volunteers picked up a chunk of sodium that caught fire and exploded.

The Institute made the donation "to express our ongoing commitment to their important efforts," according to a statement from Pamela Dumas Serfes, executive director of the News Office. MIT has supported the cleanup boat since its inception, donating every year for the last four

years, Dumas Serfes said.

On Sept. 6, a block of sodium was recovered by the volunteer crew working on the boat. The volunteers, who were working on the Boston side of the Charles River near Gloucester Street, placed the sodium in a trash container along with other wet debris. The sodium then caught fire and exploded, burning two volunteers and three paramedics who responded to the scene.

Tom McNichol, president of the Charles River Cleanup Boat, said

Sodium, Page 12

Sudan Divestment: MIT Not Invested In Worst Offenders

At this time, MIT does not have any investments in the top 20 companies deemed the "highest offenders"

by the national Sudan Divestment Task Force, according to Secretary of the MIT Corporation Kirk D. Kolenbrander.

In May 2007, a statement was released by the MIT Corporation's Executive Committee, announcing that the Institute would review "the securities portfolios over which it may exercise direct investment discretion and will divest as appropriate for those portfolios to exclude securities that would violate MIT's investment principles." Although Kolenbrander declined to comment on the exact nature of any divestments made, he did

Sudan, Page 12



KARI WILLIAMS

Solar 7, the "green" house being constructed by the MIT Solar Decathlon team, will be shipped to Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon competition in early October.

By Jeff Guo

Four months ago, the lot on Albany Street stood empty. If all goes to plan, in 10 more days the lot will be empty once again.

That's when members of the MIT Solar Decathlon team will head out for Washington, D.C., taking with them the house that they designed and built from scratch. Dubbed "Solar 7," it's a home of the future: self-sufficient, powered purely by the sun, and MIT's entry in an international competition for the most efficient — and livable — solar house.

The team plans to hit the road on Oct. 1. Volunteers will break down

the house, load it onto flatbed trucks, and ship it 400 miles to the National Mall. There, in the shadow of the Capitol Building, Solar 7 will be judged against 19 other solar homes

not only for architectural and engineering excellence, but also comfort, marketability, and energy efficiency.

Solar 7, Page 14

Schmittlein Is New Sloan Dean, Hopes to Develop More Hands-On Learning

By Natasha Plotkin

David C. Schmittlein will become dean of the MIT Sloan School of Management on Oct. 15 after working for 27 years at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, including, most recently, seven years as the school's deputy dean.

Both Schmittlein and his selection committee expressed interest in expanding Sloan's presence in the world of business and business education. "I would like to make a great school even greater by making sure the world is highly engaged with the school and continuing the school's commitment to education," Schmittlein said.

The search committee, comprised of Sloan faculty and business industry leaders, was led by Sloan Deputy Dean Gabriel Bitran and Lawrence Fish, chairman of the Citizens Financial Group. Bitran said the committee sought a dean who would "reach out to the business community and help them engage more with the school."

Schmittlein said he had three ideas for developing Sloan's educational system: creating programs

that allow students more opportunities to "learn by doing"; increasing opportunities for students to customize their education and gear it toward their career goals; and further incorporating new knowledge created by business leaders inside and outside of MIT into the school's curricula.

Regarding the undergraduate management program, Schmittlein said, "I want to increase visibility for the program both in Cambridge and the rest of the world ... I am proud of the undergraduate program and I want to be sure that that part [of the school] feels valued and gets the attention it deserves."

Schmittlein discussed possible ways that the undergraduate program could benefit from resources of the Sloan MBA and non-executive degree programs. "I see wonderful opportunity to create learning modules that can be used across sets of programs," he said, explaining that expensive educational modules developed for non-degree executive programs may be modified for the

Schmittlein, Page 12



CONAN L. HOM

Students and employers mingle on the first floor of Johnson Athletic Center during Thursday's Career Fair.



Opinion

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NEWS

Many four-year institutions ignore SAT essay scores Page 19

UMass Chair Re-elected Over Protests Page 16

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In Short

¶ UA Senate, 2011 Class Council elections are just around the corner. Candidate election packets are due Sept. 26 at 5 p.m., and official candidates begin campaigning on Sept. 27. Online voting begins on Oct. 1.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

WORLD & NATION

Iran Releases Scholar From Prison

By Nazila Fathi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

The Iranian-American who was freed from detention here early Thursday was released after his family paid bail and has not yet been given permission to leave the country, a judiciary official said.

The man, Kian Tajbakhsh, an urban planner with ties to Open Society Institute, which is associated with the George Soros Foundation, was arrested in May on security-related charges and spent 131 days in solitary confinement at the notorious Evin prison. He is one of four Iranian-Americans detained here recently and the third among them to be released.

His family posted bail worth nearly \$107,000, a judiciary official told the IRNA news agency. But the official said Tajbakhsh would not be allowed to leave the country until a judge gives him permission.

“I am very happy that I am home,” he said in a telephone interview from his apartment in Tehran. “I am glad that any remaining part of the investigation can be completed with me out of prison.” He declined to discuss the charges against him.

Zimbabwe Political Standoff May Be Easing

By Michael Wines

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHANNESBURG

A wisp of hope emerged Thursday that Zimbabwe’s ruling ZANU-PF party and its political opposition, long implacable enemies, were starting to edge toward a compromise in their nation’s deepening crisis.

Legislators from both sides joined Thursday in Parliament to unanimously approve constitutional changes that clear the way for Zimbabwe to hold presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously next year. The vote was a clear concession by the opposition, the Movement for Democratic Change, which had called the proposal to move to joint elections from separate elections a plot to dilute its electoral power.

But at the same time, ZANU-PF, the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front, and its leader, President Robert G. Mugabe, made an unprecedented concession, surrendering Mugabe’s power to appoint 10 legislators to Parliament’s dominant lower house, the House of Assembly.

Those and other changes to the electoral system apparently arose from talks mediated by South Africa’s president, Thabo Mbeki. The Southern Africa Development Community, a body of regional leaders, asked Mbeki in March to try to broker a solution to Zimbabwe’s gridlock.

Zimbabwe has been gripped by an accelerating political crisis and economic decline since 1999, and its inflation rate — officially near 7,000 percent, but widely judged by experts to be twice that — is the world’s highest. Mugabe’s autocratic government regularly represses critics, and Western governments and analysts say the electoral system is rigged to favor the ruling elite.

Cholera Case Reported in Baghdad

By Andrew E. Kramer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Iraqi health officials confirmed the first cases of cholera in Baghdad on Thursday, in a sign that an epidemic that has infected approximately 7,000 people in northern Iraq is spreading south through the country’s decrepit and unsanitary water system.

The World Health Organization and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society said they had confirmed at least one case of cholera in Baghdad, though Iraq’s Ministry of Health did not confirm it. Hospital sources said there could be at least two other confirmed infections, connected to a death in Kut and one in Tikrit.

Officials said there was a further possible outbreak in Diyala, an area north of Baghdad, and in Kut, southeast of Baghdad. The World Health Organization has already reported an outbreak of the disease in the northern cities of Kirkuk and Sulaimaniya, and 10 people are known to have died. But the disease is now moving from the north into more unstable areas of the country where it could be even harder to treat and contain.

Democratic Fundraiser Accused Of Running Illegal Ponzi Scheme

By Alan Feuer
and Mike McIntire

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Norman Hsu, the Democratic fundraiser with a habit of fleeing the law, confessed to FBI agents last week that he pressured investors in what he now admits were phony business deals to contribute to political campaigns, prosecutors said in an indictment that was unsealed Thursday.

The complaint, filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, accused Hsu of bilking at least \$60 million from hundreds of investors in a nationwide Ponzi scheme, and using some of that money to illegally reimburse at least two people who made a total of \$60,000 in campaign donations at his request.

While the complaint did not specify which candidates received the illegal or coerced contributions, federal authorities confirmed that one of them was Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Her presidential campaign has said it intends to return \$850,000 to more than 200 people whose donations were bundled by Hsu.

If convicted of the three charges

he faces — mail fraud, wire fraud and violating the Federal Election Campaign Act — he could face a maximum of 45 years in prison.

Hsu, 56, an apparel industry executive and major donor to Democratic candidates and causes, surrendered to the authorities in San Mateo County, Calif., at the end of August after reports surfaced that, for the last 15 years, he had been a fugitive in a 1992 million-dollar fraud case. He was released on \$2 million bail, but a week later fled again. While riding an Amtrak train from California to Denver he fell violently ill and was taken to a hospital in Grand Junction, Colo., where federal agents eventually arrested him.

The indictment said that while in Colorado, Hsu reached out to FBI agents on three occasions and asked to speak to them without his lawyers present. He is said to have told the agents that his business deals involved no real investments but were in fact fraudulent, and “admitted that he made implied threats to his investors to pressure them to contribute to political candidates he supported.”

Working through two shell companies, Components Ltd. and Next

Components Ltd., Hsu persuaded numerous investors from across country to give him money ostensibly to help secure short-term loans for various companies doing business in the apparel industry, the government said.

The Ponzi scheme, lucrative as it was, had been not intended to generate political contributions even though several investors were bullied into making donations, David A. Cardona, the special agent in charge of the FBI’s New York office, said at a news conference Thursday. Rather, Cardona said, it was the cachet derived from Hsu’s political activities that gave his investment schemes a certain allure.

Those schemes, the complaint said, focused on several aspects of the apparel trade, from helping obtain letters of credits for wholly imaginary manufacturers to financing the importation of “high-end” Chinese clothing that did not exist. As in all Ponzi schemes, the government said, Hsu paid interest to the first wave of investors with principle invested by secondary waves and used this purported success to lure in more investors.

Euro Climbs to All-Time High; Canadian Dollar Exceeds USD

By Carter Dougherty

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

The world dumped the dollar on Thursday, pushing it to an all-time low of \$1.40 against the euro and to parity with the Canadian dollar for the first time in three decades as currency traders around the world digested the full implications of the Federal Reserve’s new course for interest rates.

The frenzied selling began early in the day in Europe, never let up, and reached across the Atlantic as traders concluded that the lower borrowing costs the Fed introduced Tuesday would dampen the appeal of dollar-denominated assets like stocks, bonds and real estate just as other central banks are raising rates to create the opposite effect.

With the Fed’s action layered atop a weakening American economy that

is menaced as well by the prospect of a retreat by consumers who have driven growth for years, the dollar radiated instability. Its traditional role as a refuge in times of crisis, evident as recently as early August, appeared all but forgotten.

“It’s pretty ugly right now for the dollar,” said Jim McCormick, the London-based chief of currency strategy for Lehman Brothers International. “But the markets are having a very rational response to what the Fed did on Tuesday.”

The dollar dipped as low as \$1.4094 in midday trading in New York, having cracked the \$1.40 level in London, the world’s currency trading hub. The dollar also lost ground against the pound, with sterling now worth roughly \$2.

The Japanese yen and the Swiss franc also rallied strongly against the dollar, a highly unusual development

since interest rates are still comparatively low in both those countries. The yen registered its biggest daily drop against the Japanese yen in two weeks.

Against the Canadian dollar, currency of the largest U.S. trading partner, the dollar tumbled to one-to-one, a level not seen since the 1976, the early phase of a currency crisis that would eventually send shock waves through the world economy.

“It seems light years from five years ago when the dollar was threatening to drop below 60 cents,” said Douglas Porter, an economist with BMO Nesbitt Burns, the brokerage unit of the Bank of Montreal. “It will affect the psychology here in a big way.”

Gold prices also soared, reaching a 27-year high at \$744.10 an ounce, up \$14.60, in midday trading in New York.

WEATHER

Summer Holds On

By Jon Moskaitis

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

With the passage of the autumnal equinox early Sunday morning, the summer season will soon draw to a close. Nevertheless, rather summer-like conditions will prevail through the middle of next week, as a ridge of high pressure stations itself over the eastern portion of the country. For the weekend, the wind will switch to offshore from the recently prevailing onshore direction, allowing daytime temperatures to rise above 80°F (27°C). The wind direction on Monday is uncertain, but if it stays offshore, the temperature will be warmer than currently expected.

The weather is not so tranquil south of the aforementioned high pressure ridge, as a storm is spinning in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. This storm originated in the mid-latitudes, but it could transform into a tropical cyclone over the 86°F (30°C) water of the Gulf before it crosses the coast on Saturday.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High: 74°F (23°C).

Tonight: Clear and calm; fog possible late. Low: 61°F (16°C).

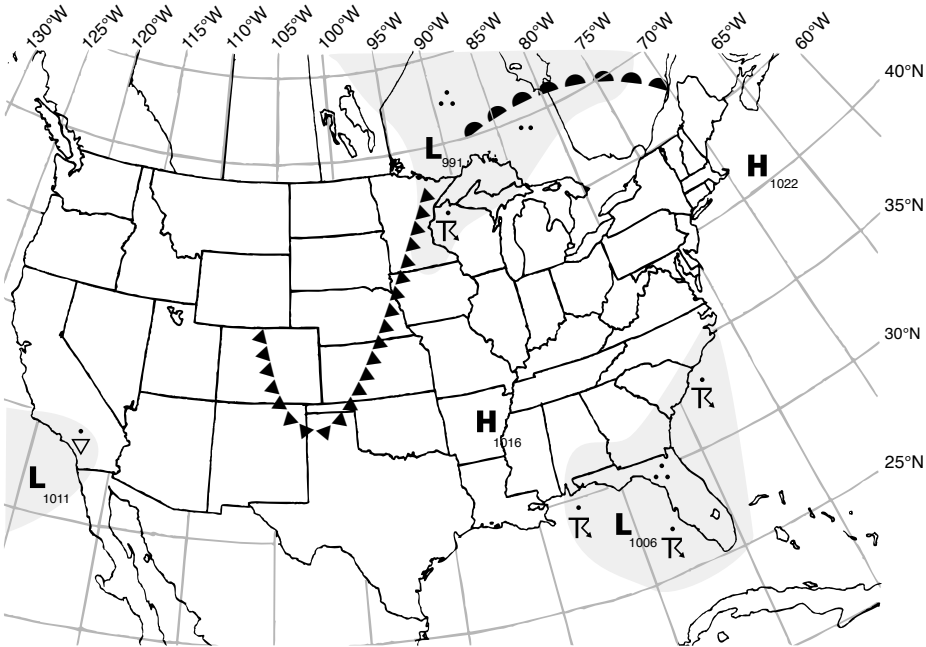
Saturday: Mostly sunny, warm, and breezy. High: 83°F (28°C).

Saturday night: A slight chance of showers. Low: 60°F (16°C).

Sunday: Sunny, less humid. High: 81°F (27°C).

Monday: Sunny. High: 76°F (24°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, September 21, 2007



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
		Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	* (Snowflake)	• (Dot)	≡ Fog
L Low Pressure	—•— Warm Front	▽ (Inverted Triangle)	• (Dot)	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	* (Snowflake)	• (Dot)	∞ Haze
	▲—▲ Stationary Front	** (Double Snowflake)	•• (Double Dot)	
		*** (Triple Snowflake)	••• (Triple Dot)	

Compiled by MIT
Meteorology Staff
and The Tech

Blackwater Guards' Shots Are Not Provoked, Iraq Concludes

By Sabrina Tavernise and James Glanz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD
Iraq's Ministry of Interior has concluded that employees of a private American security firm fired an unprovoked barrage in the shooting last Sunday in which at least eight Iraqis were killed and is proposing a radical reshaping of the way American diplomats and contractors here are protected.

In the first comprehensive account of the day's events, the ministry said that security guards for Blackwater USA, a company that guards all senior American diplomats here, fired on Iraqis in their cars in midday traffic.

The document concludes that the dozens of foreign security companies here should be replaced by Iraqi firms, and that a law that has given the companies immunity for years be scrapped.

Four days after the shooting, American officials said they were still preparing their own forensic analysis of what happened in Nisour Square, and have repeatedly

declined to give any details before their work is finished.

Privately, those officials have warned against drawing hasty conclusions, until American investigators have finished interviewing the Blackwater guards. In the Interior Ministry account — made available to The New York Times on Thursday — Iraqi investigators interviewed many witnesses but relied on the testimonies of the people they considered to be the four most credible.

The account says that as soon as the guards took positions in four locations in the square, they began shooting south, killing a driver who had failed to heed a traffic policeman's call to stop.

"The Blackwater company is considered 100 percent guilty through this investigation," the report concludes.

The shooting enraged Iraqis, in part because they feel powerless to bring the companies to account.

"What happened in Al Nisour was that citizens felt their dignity was destroyed," Jawad al-Bolani, Iraq's interior minister, said in an in-

terview. The Iraqi "looks at the state and wonders if it can bring him back his rights."

"It's important that the company show its respect to the law and Iraqi law," he said in an interview on Thursday. "Iraqi citizens need to see good treatment, especially when they operate on Iraqi soil."

And while Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki has demanded that the State Department drop Blackwater as its protector, security industry experts say that such an outcome is highly unlikely because American officials rely heavily on the company, setting the two sides on a diplomatic collision course.

The Iraqi version of events may be self-serving in some points. The ministry report states that no Iraqis fired at the Blackwater guards, even though several witnesses in recent days have said that Iraqi commandos in a watchtower did. Blackwater, in its first and only statement, said militants had ambushed its guards.

If the accounts of Iraqi gunfire from the tower are accurate, a central question is when the Iraqis in the tower began to shoot.

Musharraf Criticized For Running For Reelection While Army Head

By Salman Masood and Jon Elsen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN
Election officials have set Oct. 6 for Pakistan's presidential vote, as opponents of the president, Gen. Perez Musharraf, continued to press their case before a Supreme Court panel that he should not run for reelection while still head of the army.

The election has become the focus of the deepest political crisis Musharraf has faced. Opposition parties have threatened to boycott the vote to deny it legitimacy and there is no sign they will field candidates of their own.

Two exiled prime ministers, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, have mounted popular campaigns to return and restore civilian rule. Sharif returned briefly to Islamabad last week, but was deported within hours to Saudi Arabia, where he had been exiled after General Musharraf ousted him in a coup in 1999. Bhutto has announced her return for Oct. 18.

A ruling from the nine-judge Supreme Court panel on whether Musharraf should be disqualified is likely

next week, possibly on Wednesday, said Dr. Tariq Hassan, an opposition lawyer.

Lawyers for the opposition said Thursday they were preparing for the worst.

"What I anticipate is that, after giving certain observations, they will not allow our petition," said one, Shaukad Saddiqui. He said he expects that the panel, which does not include four of the Supreme Court's justices, will then leave it to the country's chief elections official to determine if Musharraf can run for re-election.

That official, Qazi Farooq, was appointed by Musharraf and has ruled in his favor before.

A statement introduced in the Supreme Court hearing on Tuesday said that Musharraf would give up his military post if he won re-election. His current term runs out on Nov. 15, and by law presidential elections must be held by Oct. 15. The constitutional amendment allowing him to hold the top civilian and military posts expires Dec. 31. The information minister, Muhammad Ali Durrani, said that if re-elected, Musharraf

would resign from his army post prior to Nov. 15, before taking the presidential oath.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has called that announcement "a clear reflection of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's firm belief in democracy."

But the statement was immediately met with criticism and skepticism by opposition lawyers and political parties, who questioned whether the general would hold to such promises and what he would do if not re-elected.

The judicial panel hearing the opposition petitions is being led by Justice Rana Bhagwandas. The chief justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, chose not to serve on the panel. He was reinstated by the Supreme Court in July after fending off an attempt by Musharraf to dismiss him.

Political analysts said it was understandable that the opposition parties were critical of Musharraf's announced plans for the election, but that it could be seen as Musharraf's willingness — no matter how reluctant — to give up some of his power.

Bush Assails Congressional Democrats Over Federalized Child Healthcare Bill

By David Stout
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON
President Bush accused congressional Democrats on Thursday of playing politics with the health of children, and he warned again that he would veto a children's insurance bill if it emerged from Congress in its present form.

Instead of posturing by sending him a bill they know he will reject, Bush said, the Democrats should embrace fiscal and social responsibility and pass a bill that provides for reasonable increases in spending on health insurance for uninsured children without veering toward the "federalization of health care."

The president spoke at a White House news conference convened for the express purpose of trying to head off political damage from Democrats who are mocking Bush's description of himself as a compassionate conservative because of his opposition to the increased spending in the children's insurance bill.

While he responded to an array of questions on domestic and foreign

issues, Bush led off with comments about the State Children's Health Insurance Program, also known as S-Chip.

"What I'm describing here is a philosophical divide that exists in Washington over the best approach for health care," Bush said. "Democratic leaders in Congress want to put more power in the hands of government by expanding federal health care programs. Their S-Chip plan is an incremental step toward the goal of government-run health care for every American."

"I have a different view," Bush went on. "I believe the best approach is to put more power in the hands of individuals by empowering people and their doctors to make health care decisions that are right for them. Instead of expanding S-Chip beyond its original purpose, we should return it to its original focus, and that is helping poor children, those who are most in need."

Until the White House and Congress can come up with a health bill acceptable to both, Congress should pass "a clean, temporary extension"

of the current program, which expires at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, Bush said. The president said he had instructed Michael Leavitt, the secretary of health and human services, to work with state to minimize damage in the event that the program lapses.

Negotiators for the Senate and House have agreed on the outlines of a bill that would provide health insurance for an additional four million children who do not now have coverage. About 6.6 million children are now covered. Under the emerging bill, \$60 billion would be provided for S-Chip program over the next five years — \$35 billion more than current spending, and \$30 billion more than Bush has recommended, but \$15 billion less than the House originally wanted.

The House-Senate accord would increase tobacco taxes to cover more children. When Bush was asked if he would oppose a tobacco tax increase, he said, "We don't need to raise taxes," and added that lawmakers were trying to expand the health-insurance program beyond its original mandate to aid poor children.

Mild Reaction in Capitol To Dubai Nasdaq Stake

By Stephen Labaton and Julia Werdigier
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON
As the Bush administration vowed to vigorously review for national security concerns a proposed investment in the Nasdaq Stock Market by a Dubai-controlled exchange, several senior Democrats and Republicans said Thursday that the transaction did not trouble them and predicted it would be approved.

The deal, announced Thursday morning, would be among the first to be examined under a law adopted two months ago in response to a 2006 deal sought by another company controlled by Dubai. That deal involved the acquisition of a company that managed port operations in the United States by DP World. It resulted in sharp criticism of the Bush administration for having approved the transaction, and DP World ultimately agreed to sell the American holding.

The recent law codified and expanded the mandate of an interagency committee, led by the Treasury Department, that reviews foreign investments for national security issues.

While the law does not take effect until next month, the administration said it would apply it in the review of the investment in Nasdaq. In advance of the deal, several lawmakers and other officials appear to have received briefings and assurances that it would not pose national security problems.

NBC to Offer Popular Shows To Download For Free

By Bill Carter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NBC Universal said Wednesday that it would soon permit consumers to download many of NBC's most popular programs free to personal computers and other devices for one week immediately after their broadcasts.

The service, which is set to start in November after a test period in October, comes less than three weeks after NBC Universal said it was pulling its programs out of the highly successful iTunes service of Apple Inc. That partnership fell apart because of a dispute over Apple's iTunes pricing policies and what NBC executives said were concerns about lack of piracy protection.

NBC's move comes as companies throughout the television business search for new economic models in the face of enormous changes in the business. Networks continue to lose audience share, and viewers — especially many of the highly prized viewers under 30 years old — are increasingly demanding control of their program choices, insisting on being able to watch shows when, where, and how they want.

At the same time viewers are finding more and more ways, like TiVo machines, to avoid watching the commercials that have long provided the bulk of television revenue.

Pentagon Reviews \$6 Billion In Contracts For Crimes

By Eric Schmitt and Ginger Thompson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON
Military officials said Thursday that \$6 billion in contracts to provide essential supplies to U.S. troops in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan — including food, water and shelter — were under review by criminal investigators, double the amount the Pentagon had previously disclosed.

In addition, \$88 billion in contracts and programs, including those for body armor for U.S. soldiers and materiel for Iraqi and Afghan security forces, are being audited for financial irregularities, the officials said.

Taken together, the figures, provided by the Pentagon in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee, represent the fullest public accounting of the magnitude of a widening government investigation into bid-rigging, bribery and kickbacks by members of the military and civilians linked to the Pentagon's purchasing system.

Until Thursday's hearing, the Army's most detailed public disclosure about the scale of the problem was that \$3 billion in contracts awarded by the Kuwait office were under review.

At the hearing, a panel of high-ranking Defense Department officials described a war-zone procurement system in disarray. They said that the Pentagon failed to provide adequate training for contracting officers for their assignments, offered insufficient oversight of contracting officers' activities and hadn't put in place early warning systems to catch officers who violated the law.

Germany's Commercial Ties With Iran Prove Hard to Cut

By Mark Landler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DARMSTADT, GERMANY
As European leaders argue about whether to tighten sanctions against Iran, the debate is not just diplomatic. Here in this industrial city, German exporters gathered on Tuesday to learn about "market opportunities" in Iran that they complain are drying up.

Germany has long been one of Tehran's largest trading partners, but its exports to Iran plunged nearly 18 percent in the first half of this year. Businessmen at the chamber of commerce here blamed the legal uncertainties of doing business in Iran for the trend.

Still, Rolf Weitowitz, a representative of the German Office for Foreign Trade, told the group that Iran was eager to buy all sorts of capital goods that German companies specialize in making: turbines for power plants, water-treatment systems, monorails, even windmill farms.

Iran, he said, would offer "promising potential for German suppliers and partners" — if only the political atmosphere had not been soured by the dispute over Iran's nuclear ambitions, the U.N. sanctions over the same issue, and the anti-Israel comments of Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

To some critics, the mere fact that this meeting was held illustrates why Germany is not taking as hard a line toward Iran as the United States or France. German companies, they say, are determined to preserve their ties to a country that has been one of their most durable trading partners.

OPINION



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Institute
Wisdom Watch

By The Tech Editorial Board



MIT pays the decontamination bill for boat hit by sodium. Good job for being a responsible member of the local community.



Freshmen rejected from 8.012 because they weren't the best at the math diagnostic. The options to escape TEAL continue to dwindle ...



LaVerde's Market is no longer open 24 hours a day. How will 6.170 students, pre-meds, and reading room lovers feed themselves now?



The Interfraternity Council takes no action in response to numerous rush violations. At least this year's rush was a little more honest about Greek life.



Boston University Student Dental Plan excludes MIT students after MIT student complaints. Sometimes the squeaky wheel gets thrown away.



MIT falls from fourth to seventh in U.S. News college rankings. Now, if only we knew what these rankings mean ...



Lobby 7 doors periodically fail to operate despite the replacement of key parts. Just so we are clear, MIT has the smartest engineers in the world ...



MIT Community Picnic. Thanks for the cushion. How much did it cost?



MIT Museum spends \$3 million on upgrades. Old hacks now have a nicer home.



Ashdown House bedbug infestation apparently quelled. Next stop, mice?

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"I'm not sure which will be harder to endure the second time around . . . another O.J. trial or more debate on Hillary's health care plan."

IN A RECENT NATIONAL HISTORY TEST, COLLEGE STUDENTS AVERAGED BARELY 50% CORRECT

MIKE THOMPSON
DETROIT FREE PRESS
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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

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Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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ARTS

BOOK READING

Ethnic Considerations in Harvard Square

MIT Professor Díaz Reads From Latest Work

By Praveen Rathinavelu
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
Reading by Author Junot Díaz
Sept. 12, 2007
Brattle Street Theatre

Last fall, I took a class in American Literature that read *Drown*, a collection of short stories by the Dominican writer, and MIT professor, Junot Díaz. I considered myself a pretty well read individual; said considerations generally rely on knowledge of, more than anything, names. I toted the titles of canonical heavyweights like Faulkner and Melville in classrooms, parties, and dorm rooms. A young Dominican-American author, whose debut work described life in both the Dominican Republic and immigrant America with enough fervor and sadness to knock the breath out of you, wasn't really something I was accustomed to.

But the revelations continued as I learned that Professor Díaz taught creative writing at MIT. Enrolled in his class, I proceeded to discover a voice as unique and dynamic in person as it was on paper. On Sept. 12, at the Brattle Street Theatre in Harvard Square, I had the distinct pleasure of experiencing both sides of that voice when Díaz read from his first novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

CONCERT REVIEW

No Whistling on the Bus

Peter Bjorn And John Play Avalon With The Clientele

By Andrew Lee
STAFF WRITER
Peter Bjorn And John feat. The Clientele
Sept. 7, 2007
Avalon Ballroom

Whistling banned in Clientele tour van," it states on The Clientele's MySpace page. The opening band can tease Peter Bjorn And John about the possibility of overexposure, but true backlash against this Swedish indie success story is hard to come by. Impressively, Peter Bjorn And John have been able to sustain universal critical acclaim almost a year since their breakthrough album, *Writer's Block*, was released. The accolades are not undeserved; the songs on the album *are* that good. You may have heard one of them, "Young Folks," the last time you were positively freakin' *anywhere* this summer other than on a boat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Though The Clientele are a veteran band with enough of a cult following to headline their own tour, the majority of the crowd at the Avalon ballroom came out specifically to see their heroes, Peter Bjorn And John. Clientele frontman Alasdair Maclean joked, "Peter Bjorn And John used to be our good friends, but now they're backstage in bathrobes counting their money." To an audience used to the loud, immediate hooks found in PB&J's songs, the

The night consisted of Díaz reading two excerpts from *Oscar Wao*, separated by a Q&A session "to break the monotony of one voice" as Díaz described it. But it was very quickly evident that there was nothing tedious about the way Díaz's writing exploded with a striking diversity of voice, character, and even language. The two excerpts both detailed, with beguiling insight, aspects of the Dominican-American (human may be more appropriate) condition using two different narrators with varying perspectives.

The first, a piece called "Wildwood," introduced two key characters in the novel: the title character's sister, Lola, and her unforgettable mother, who is at once proud, brutal, and tragic. In the short excerpt, Lola is forced to confront her burgeoning sexuality and womanhood, in many ways in spite of her mother. But looking at her mother, Lola faces the inevitability of who she will become. When asked by a female student how he had such a strong perception of what specific details would "matter to a girl," Díaz replied, "I have two sisters ... we were all in each other's shit, like, all the time." It's a current that runs through all of his writing: the deep and unmistakable imprint of personal experience.

Fittingly enough, a question on how much of Díaz's writing was based in his experiences was

asked a few minutes later. He said that he had difficulty simply writing that which is real ("It takes me so much more effort to sound everyday than to sound third person stilted."), and instead he used his experiences as a "compass." He explained that writing novels required an incredible "structural and intellectual apparatus" and that his writing is very much a reflection of the stories and films that compelled him intellectually. Nevertheless, the triumphs of his prose: his seamless and inventive brand of Spanglish, fascination with history and sci fi, and meditations on the insecurities bred from racial differences are all very much a part of him, the answers he gives, and the way he speaks.

The second excerpt read was the opening of the novel: an engaging description of a curse that oppresses the minds and spirits of the Dominican people, the fukú. This curse weighs heavy on Oscar, the book's awkward and overweight protagonist, whose fascination with Tolkien's Middle Earth is only rivaled by his desire to find love. The description of the fukú provides such a savory blend of humor and honesty that the tragic pitch tucked within it is potent and surprising; it sometimes stings you with a quick jab and sometimes washes over you, slowly but undeniably.

Díaz's ability to combine ideas that are seemingly disparate, to blend languages and infuse

them with bits of genres largely seen as "unserious" is a reflection of a unique relationship with language that was born out of his immigrant background. "You carry how you learned it, when you learned it. English as structure. Language as pedagogy," Díaz explained, describing a heightened consciousness of language that stems from learning English so late in life.

The uniqueness of *Oscar Wao* begs an inescapable question: what kind of novel can we call this? "We simultaneously love our categories and simultaneously love resisting them," Díaz stated. He somewhat facetiously talked both about lofty aspirations to transcend genre and futile attempts to characterize his book (he jokingly suggested "multigenerational family saga"). A source of our desire to resist categorizing is that specific genres or novels pertaining to the condition of an ethnic group, are often assumed to have a limited scope. But Díaz stressed that one cannot aspire to write in a manner that is universal and that "universality springs from specificity." He writes about being Dominican as if to his best Dominican friend, but the reader's involvement is not mitigated by race or condition. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* celebrates that expression of particular human experiences, which in its honesty, seeps into our conscience and becomes our own.

gentle romanticism of The Clientele's music was not their cup of tea. Their songs are the kind that politely settle into your mind on first listen and then grow on you over the course of days. The band, likely aware of this, made the smart choice of opening their set with perhaps their catchiest tune, the sublime "Since K Got Over Me."

It took a couple more songs, however, for The Clientele to fully click into a comfortable instrumental balance. For songs with arrangements as soft as cobwebs and just as delicate, this was no trivial task. Maclean, in a slightly-too-large sweater that looked to be chosen by his mother, warmly crooned songs from throughout the band's catalogue like they were lullabies while pianist Mel Draisey, with sleepy eyes and disheveled blonde hair, pressed the keys like she was softly kneading dough.

Through nearly all of The Clientele's set, the shimmering arpeggios coming from Maclean's guitar barely hovered over the conversational murmur of the crowd, which didn't fall silent until halfway through "Lamplight" when Maclean unexpectedly shifted into a hazy improvisational guitar solo. The Clientele had converted some new fans but almost lost them with their closing song, "The Dance of the Hours." The track, from their latest album, *God Save the Clientele*, features a backdrop of whispers in the studio version, but the band made the mistake of playing a poor quality recording of

those whispers in the live setting. It came out more like tape hiss, inducing grimaces on quite a few faces.

It takes more than that to keep a crowd at the Avalon down, and when The Clientele left the stage, the house music stoked the mood of anticipation with a nifty sitar version of "Young Folks." After a short wait, guitarist and vocalist Peter jogged onstage with the rest of the trio in matching suit jackets, and John started thumping out the beat to "Let's Call It Off" to enormous cheers.

Seeing them in person, it didn't take long for me to understand why this band had achieved such popularity. Onstage, Peter Bjorn And John don't carry themselves with the coyness of a typical indie pop band that can grow tiresome over time; they are true, unabashed performers. Peter gripped his guitar as if he were absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to play it and would often punctuate his power chords with a flying leap. Bjorn (the bassist) provided a hilarious counterpoint to Peter's animated exuberance with his rigid posture and slack-jawed expression. The enthusiastic crowd ate it all up.

While Peter Bjorn And John focused the majority of their set on tracks from *Writer's Block*, the songs they cherry-picked from their earlier, more straightforward albums translated to the live setting much more potently. The joyful guitar pop of "Teen Love," for instance,

could only be described as an example of why people go to see live music. With the whole band on backing vocals shouting "I fall in love with you!" the song had the feeling of a four-minute celebration and became an instant show highlight.

At one point more than halfway through the set, a pair of bongo drums were placed onstage and the audience could smell "Young Folks" coming a mile away. While a roadie manned the bongos, Peter grabbed his mic, puckered his lips, and breezed straight into that infectious whistling melody. The Avalon crowd went nuts, and one girl was so thrilled that she climbed up and began dancing with Peter as he casually swayed to the beat. That made everybody go even more nuts, and to the band's credit, the girl was allowed to stay onstage and flail her arms as much as she wanted for much of the song.

Though "Young Folks" is normally a duet, Peter Bjorn And John disappointingly chose not to tour with a female vocalist (Mel from The Clientele must not have the pipes), so Peter was forced to sing both the male and female parts. However, nobody minded and nobody cared. The adoring fans had taken the song's "live in the here and now" attitude to heart and brushed their regrets, faults, and insecurities out of their mind. The band they loved was playing the song they came for, and as long as the whistling was live, they were damned if they weren't going to be carefree.



The shepherd's son or March Hare (Molly Goyer Gorman, back) is being tricked by Prince Florizel's thieving servant Autolycus (Owen Holland, front). The Cambridge American Stage Tour visited MIT this week to perform Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale." For more information, visit <http://castonline.org/>.

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Reggae, Big Band, and Ska — Oh My!

The English Beat and Other Rude Boys at the Middle East

By Josh Bails

The English Beat
Sept. 13, 2007
The Middle East

Two-tone era ska legend Dave Wakeling and the current rendition of touring band The English Beat headlined a horns extravaganza at The Middle East Downstairs concert venue last Thursday night. With exceptional reggae bands Destroy Babylon and Pressure Cooker opening the show, this was not a night to miss for any lovers of the genre.

Four-piece reggae group Destroy Babylon opened up the night with a much louder, harder sound than is usually associated with the genre. It did not surprise me when I discovered vocalist / guitarist / horn player John Beaudette and drummer Marc Beaudette were twins because the band stayed coordinated during very complicated pauses without ever missing a beat.

They are definitely worth seeing live, and will be back at the Middle East on the eighth of October.

The night continued with nine-piece Boston reggae ensemble Pressure Cooker whose impressive horn trifecta gave them an old school big band feel with a new school ska twist. Lead vocalist Craig Fujita's style and energy coupled with the raw talent of the rest of the band came together nicely to make for a fun live performance. The entire club started dancing soon after Pressure Cooker's set started and only stopped when they finished.

The entire house erupted in excitement when The English Beat, the band they'd all come to see, finally took the stage, and it

didn't take long for the band to prove that the crowd's excitement was well warranted. With over 25 years of stage experience behind him, lead man and '80s ska legend Dave Wakeling has shown barely any signs of aging. He was fully energetic and led the band through a more than impressive two-and-a-half hour set. Their performance had many high points, but particularly notable was their remarkable performance of "Can't Get Over Losing You," which they dedicated to recently deceased ska icon Desmond Decker.

All three performances made for a very enjoyable night, and I can only hope that such impressive ska shows come by The Middle East more often.

*The entire house
erupted in excitement when
The English Beat,
the band they'd all come to see,
finally took the stage.*

CONCERT LISTINGS

September Shows

Tuesday, Sept. 25

Devendra Banhart *

The Roxy, all ages, \$18

You could love him for combatting the ever-irritating new term "freak folk," or you could love him for his endless support of his contemporaries, but mostly love him for his wonderful acoustic folk songs, which he constructs with all the care of a fine artist.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Rocky Votolato

The Middle East (Downstairs), 18+, \$12

If you're into new folk music, check out Rocky Votolato. His simple melodies and pure voice make his smooth but sad songs a real treat.

Thursday, Sept. 27

MFA College Night, 7 p.m. to midnight
Museum of Fine Arts, free with college ID

The annual MFA College Night brings together live music, DJs, dancing, and art for area college students. This year's main act is Thurston Moore on his "Trees outside the Academy" Tour. And it's all FREE with a college ID. The concert is first come first serve.

Freezepop

The Middle East (Downstairs), 18+, \$12

Less talk, more rock! Bust out your Guitar Hero axe and celebrate these Steer Roast alums' album release party featuring Ad Frank and the Fast Easy Woman as well as Provocateur.

Saturday, Sept. 29

Fujiya & Miyagi

Middle East (Downstairs), 18+, \$12

NME called them "brilliant," and Time Out lamented them as "criminally overlooked." So be an upstanding citizen and check out this electronic rock trio as a final hoorah for the month of September.

—Jillian A. Berry and Sarah Dupuis

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Resume Deadline:

Tuesday, September 25th

1st Round Interviews:

Thursday, October 4th

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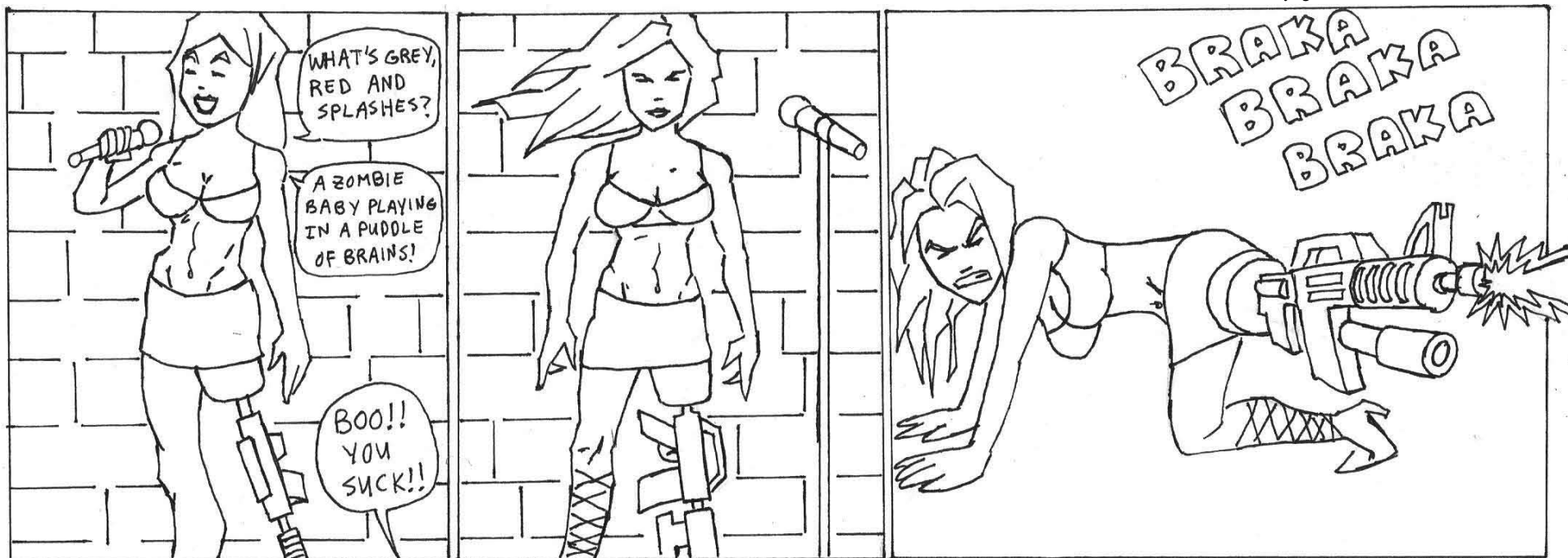
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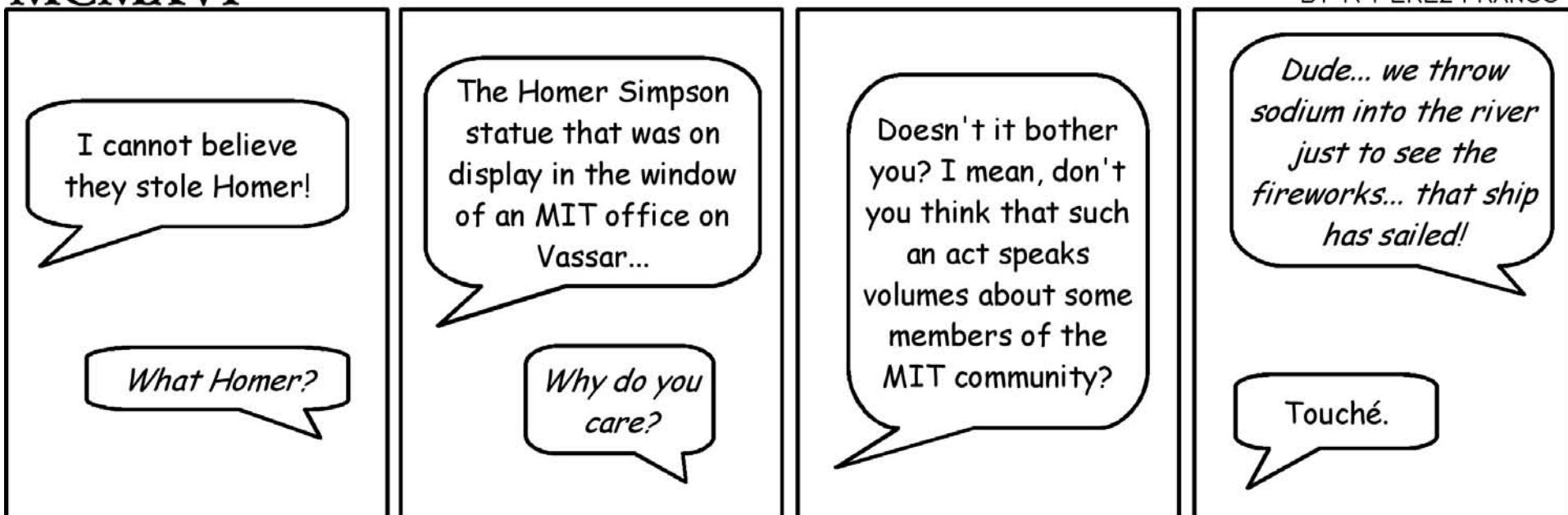
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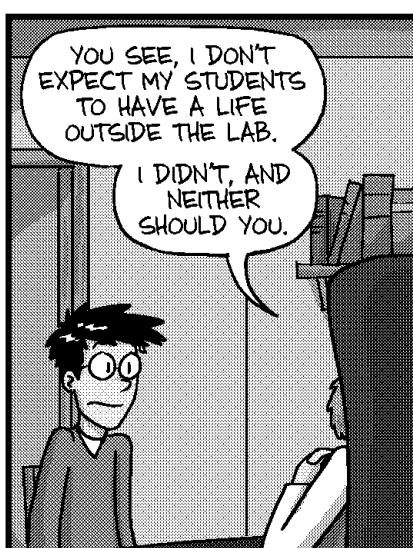
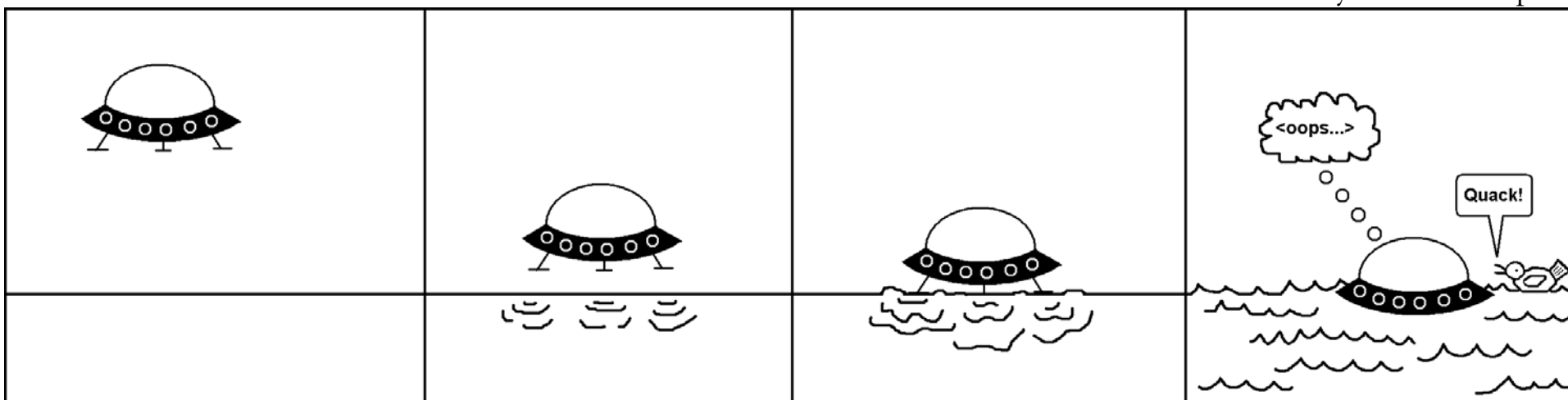


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Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

- 1 Related
5 Formal response to "Who's there?"
10 Rowers
14 Shoe string
15 Same here
16 Tons
17 Ret. honorary title
18 Mardi Gras
20 Water transportation option
22 Sawyer or Lane
23 Cordon ____ (master chef)
24 Superman's girl
26 Theatrical makeup
30 Warner Bros. rival
33 Actress Berry
34 Mothers of Milles.
35 Exist
36 Track shape
37 Little swabs
39 Pitcher Hershisier
40 Harden
41 Club fees
42 Dieter's target
43 Half a fly?
44 Cause of long lines at the pumps
47 Nod off
48 Norwegian saint
49 Poultry entree
52 Not just ajar
56 Restaurant table item
59 Medical shot?
60 Coup d' ____
61 Lake formed by Akosombo Dam

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- 62 Auction ends?
63 Flushed
64 Speaks biblically
65 "Auld Lang ____"
DOWN
1 Actor Guinness
2 "____ Sutra"
3 Bakery worker
4 Soft toy
5 Song by The Who
6 Rip to pieces
7 ____-bitty
8 Drunkard
9 Debtor's letters
10 Desert refuge
11 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
12 Colorful mount
13 Eye problem
19 Revises a text
21 If all ____ fails...
24 Droopy
25 Singles
26 Wraith
27 Great reviews
28 Overjoy
29 Off the mark
30 One of The Donald's exes
31 Shorthand system
32 Brawl
37 Quick test
38 Port beginning?
39 Gets the better of
41 Blackmore heroine
42 Scottish hillside
45 Uses a crane
46 So last year
47 Bonkers
49 Good buddy?
50 Prefix for biography
51 School orgs.
52 Like a coyote
53 Hunted animal
54 Deserve
55 Wall St. initials
57 Letters for motor homes
58 Letters from the morgue

su | do | ku

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	4							3
7					5			

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Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 18.

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Army ROTC, MIT Flying Club Give Helicopter Rides



MIT Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps and the MIT Flying Club hosted two Black Hawk helicopters on Briggs Field Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007 as part of a ROTC training exercise. All MIT students were eligible to go for a ride in the helicopters after signing various forms and completing a short briefing.

(counterclockwise from left)

The streets of Boston lie below the eight-minute aerial tour route flown by the Black Hawk helicopters.

A helicopter comes in for a landing on Briggs Field just as the other is ready to take off.

The two helicopters take off almost simultaneously in front of MIT's undergraduate dormitory Simmons Hall.

MIT Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 awaits takeoff after being strapped into a helicopter.

Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict (fourth from left) and Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80 (fifth from left) pose with a group of MIT Army ROTC cadets and officers after the deans completed their flight.

Photography by Eric D. Schmiedl



Schmittlein From UPenn Becomes New Sloan Dean

Boosting Learning Through Experience on Agenda

Schmittlein, from Page 1

undergraduate and MBA curricula.

To increase the Sloan school's presence outside MIT, Schmittlein said he would like to "develop more coherence and outward orientation" in formal communications and develop systems "reminiscent of OpenCourseWare" to share the faculty's knowledge and research with other institutions through electronic or peer-to-peer networks.

Bitran said he expects Schmittlein to bring the school into "an important introspective period" and be able to focus on "getting the school to be better known and have a better relationship with industry."

Schmittlein said that his experience at

Wharton would help him accomplish his goals at Sloan. At Wharton, "part of my responsibility was related to stimulating innovation in academic programs," he said. Schmittlein is also experienced in forging relationships with business leaders in industry and academia for collaboration on educational and research programs.

"I am delighted that Dean Schmittlein has agreed to join us at MIT Sloan," Provost L. Rafael Reif said in a Sloan press release. "He is well prepared to lead MIT Sloan and enhance MIT's role as one of the world's most important sources for thought leadership in innovation."

"I am very proud of the opportunity [to lead the school] and excited to join," Schmittlein said.

Sodium Investigation Ongoing

Cleanup Boat President Satisfied With MIT's Response

Sodium, from Page 1

that MIT's donation would cover a \$5,500 decontamination bill, some minor repairs to the boat, and some clothing that volunteers lost during the decontamination. The decontamination was requested by the Boston Fire Department and was performed by Triumvirate Environmental, according to the Cleanup Boat's Web site.

The donation comes from money allocated to MIT's Office of Community and Government Relations, according to Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD '75.

Clay said that he thought much consultation went into making the donation and "a lot of discussion about the sodium incident" took place. He emphasized that it is still unclear if MIT was responsible for the sodium, however. "We'll have to wait for the investigation to complete."

Local media have speculated that the sodium found on the bank of the Charles River is related to sodium drops, a tradition involving MIT students throwing blocks of reactive sodium metal into the Charles River for its violent reaction with water. While most students on campus associate the idea of a sodium drop with the annual drop run by East Campus, other groups, including the fraternity Tau Epsilon Phi, have been known to throw sodium into the Charles River.

McNichol said he hoped that sodium drops would end although he was not angry at MIT. "MIT has always supported us," McNichol said. He would not disclose how much money MIT donated in the past.

"In fact, the first boat that reached us ... was from the MIT [boating] pavilion with fire extinguishers," McNichol said. "The MIT administration ... they're doing the right thing."

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Institute Divests From Top Offenders In Sudan

Sudan, from Page 1

say that MIT does not have any holdings in the top 20 highest offenders and that "whatever changes were necessary ... our investment managers moved promptly to make that happen ... there's no further work to be done there, as I understand it."

Because Kolenbrander refused to provide more details on the exact nature of the divestments, it is not clear if MIT had holdings in any of these companies, many of which are in oil and power or energy sectors, before the spring's statement.

Kolenbrander added, "We continually review our holdings and as the situation in the world changes, so too would our holdings."

Bernard (Ben) A. Mares G, one of five MIT community members who met with Kolenbrander over the summer for updates on the divestment situation, said that Kolenbrander's acknowledgement "is fabulous, since most schools only release a few names" of companies in which they choose not to hold investments.

Both Kolenbrander, Mares, and Mares's colleagues agreed that the best way to update the MIT community on the divestment issue was through *The Tech* instead of a formal statement, although Kolenbrander said he was not able to articulate exactly why both he and the group decided on the method. Mares said that he does not "personally care how the statement comes out as long as MIT publicly acknowledges that they have divested from the offending companies."

For more information on the companies listed as the top offenders, go to the Sudan Divestment Task Force's Web site at <http://www.sudandivestment.org/> to request a copy of the "Sudan Company Report."

—Marie Y. Thibault



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Solution to Crossword

from page 9

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Solar 7 Team on Tight Deadline to Complete House

Solar 7, from Page 1

But before it gets to compete, the team must finish building the house. As it stands, with a little more than a week to go, Solar 7 is not quite finished. The bathroom needs fixtures, not to mention a toilet and a tub. Walls stand unfinished, doorways are missing doors, and there's no plumbing. At the site, volunteers paint and screw in panels while a team checks the wiring, stepping nimbly over stray tools strewn across the house's half-finished floor.

"I'm stressed about everything," lead builder Tom Pittsley said. "We've got ... days to build a house and tear it apart."

"Take a deep breath before the storm," Corey P. Fucetola G, the project manager, said.

Pittsley laughed. "This is the storm," he said.

Solar powered

The challenge of the Solar Decathlon, a contest that occurs every two years and is sponsored by the Department of Energy, is not just to build an energy efficient house. It's to build an energy positive one: a house that can provide its own heating and cooling and electricity, year-round, from the power of the sun.

So it's no surprise that Solar 7 sports a hefty array of 42 solar panels on its roof, providing a total of over 9000 watts to 800 square feet of living space. "It's way more than a house this size needs," the team's technology adviser Jim Dunn said. "We over-designed it to have plenty of power for the competition."

Solar 7's panels gather so much electricity that, in fact, two had to be taken offline, or the combined output would have blown the inverters which route the electricity to appliances in the home, Fucetola said.

Last Friday, the house switched over to running completely on solar energy, making it the first officially

off-the-grid building in Cambridge. The reality of this milestone has not yet set in for all of the team. "Hey, that's a live panel there!" Dunn said to a volunteer near an exposed knot of wiring in the wall. "It's running 230 volts."

At the competition, the electricity will power appliances and charge an electric car. To demonstrate that Solar 7 is livable, team members will cook meals in the house for four days, using stoves running off solar energy. They will wash and dry laundry, do the dishes, watch TV and run a computer — all typical household tasks, performed in a house that is anything but.

Aside from solar panels, Solar 7 takes advantage of the sun's power in other ways. On the south-facing wall, rows of black pipes use the sun to heat up water that will run through small tubes under the floorboards. Not only does this technique save heating costs, it also heats the house more comfortably, Fucetola said.

On the same south-facing side, a large, milky white panel heats up during the day and radiates warmth at night — a traditional green building feature called a "trombe wall." But Solar 7's wall is comprised of a layer of water sandwiched between white strips of an advanced aerogel that insulates while letting light through.

The aerogel wall is not the only technological flourish in Solar 7. Although competition rules limit teams to commercially available materials, Fucetola said the MIT team enjoyed the support of industry leaders eager to work with the Institute. Several components of the house, including the power inverters and the warm wall, were obtained before they were commercially available. Others, like the washing machine and kitchen appliances, were donated outright.

"[Companies] want to work with MIT students, that's what we have to sell," Fucetola said.

Building a house of the future

To call Solar 7 a purely MIT effort, however, would be ignoring the wide community support the project has garnered and grown to depend on.

Although the project began under the auspices of the MIT Department of Architecture and Planning in 2005, it was dropped by June 2006 over concerns on Institute funding, Fucetola said. Eight months into the project, no funds had been raised outside of what MIT could provide, so the department decided to call everything off, Fucetola said. Though the Department of Energy gives \$100,000 to every team that is selected to compete, the sum is only a fraction of what a competitive team needs to build a house.

"[The architecture department] thought if we were going to fail, we should choose to fail fast and early," Fucetola said. "We said, 'We're not going to fail.'"

That June, Fucetola turned to

ty, and Boston Architectural College; students from local high schools; and electricians, plumbers, master builders, and carpenters who donated their time.

Kevin Horne, one of the architects for the project, calls the team "the motliest of motley crews." Horne, who is himself a student at the Boston Architectural College, joined the team in January looking for experience with green building. "People come for all kinds of reasons," Horne said, "but we're all interested in sustainable architecture. [Solar Decathlon] gives us the chance to experiment, to play, to share ideas."

Plans for Solar 7 were finalized early this year through a series of difficult design negotiations. "The house probably went through 50 major redesigns," Fucetola said.

Despite conflict over the details, Fucetola said that the team agreed early on to make good use of natural light, a commitment that led to the numerous skylights tucked between

Solar 7's swooping roof, as well as the translucent, aerogel-lined warm wall. The team also strived to use only environmentally friendly methods and materials. Instead of virgin lumber, they used particleboard, which is made from wood scraps and sawdust. The floor and ceiling are bamboo; the wall panels are made from recycled wheat. The roof is covered in tiles made from recycled tires.

As the competition day nears, Fucetola said he is not as concerned about how well Solar 7 will do. He said he only hopes that the house will help persuade politicians and the public the viability of sustainable architecture using renewable energy. "Solar 7 will go in front of people who decide policy," he said. "If we can make it work, then they can make appropriate decisions about the environment."

The building site for Solar 7 is at the intersection of Portland St. and Albany St. and is open to the public. See <http://web.mit.edu/solardecathlon/> for more information.



ALEX H. CHAN—THE TECH

Maria Brennan, assistant director of the International Students Office, welcomes Yew Chin Leow G and his wife Kimberly Ang to the inaugural ISO Jeanty International Tea.

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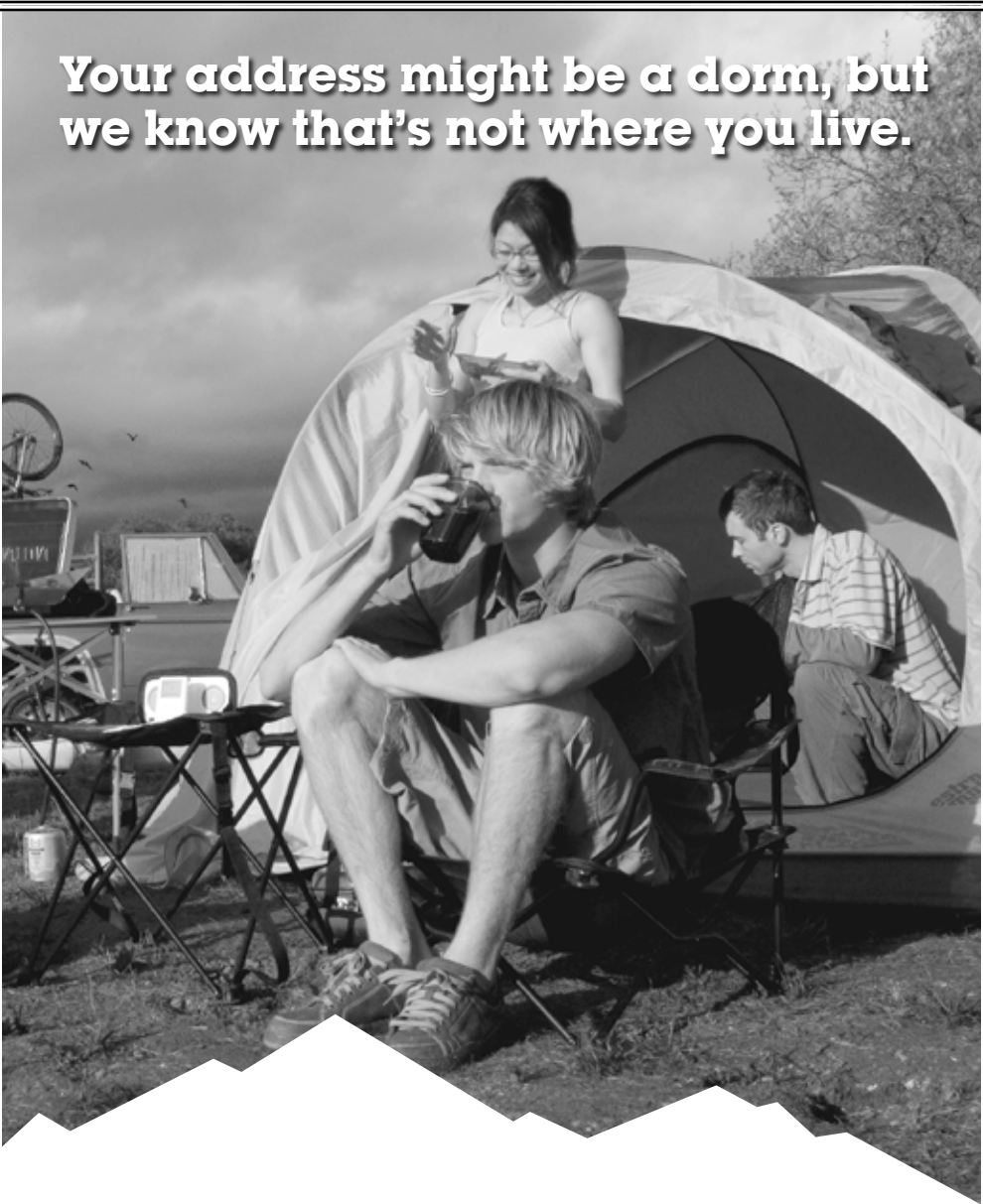
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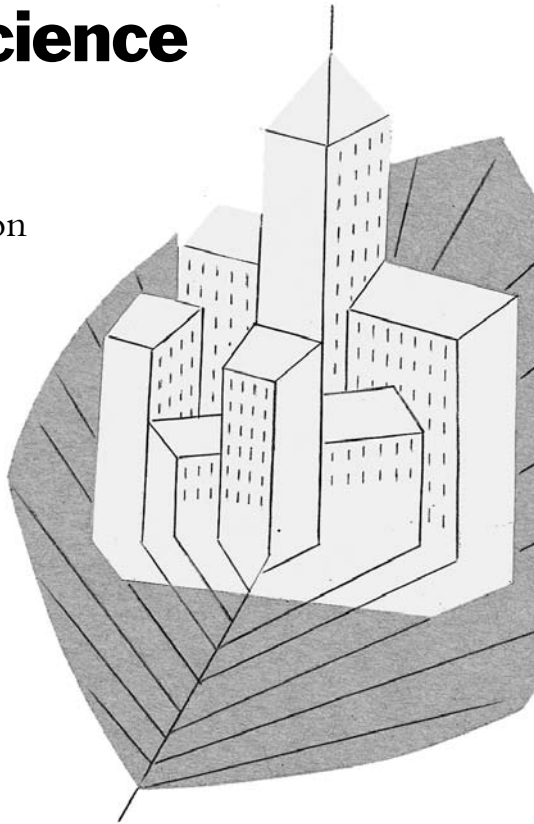
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UMass Chair Selected Again Over Objections

By Peter Schworm
THE BOSTON GLOBE

LOWELL, MASS

The University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees reelected Stephen P. Tocco as its chairman on Sept. 19 over the objections of members newly appointed by Governor Deval Patrick, dealing a setback to the administration's attempt to reshape the panel.

Four new members, including former chairman James Karam and Philip W. Johnston, the former head of the state Democratic Party, urged the board to shelve a decision on new leadership until its December meeting so they could acquaint themselves with the board's priorities. But they failed to muster enough support to sway the 19-member committee, which includes 12 holdovers appointed by Republican governors.

Patrick appointed five trustees Tuesday in an attempt to restructure the board to help drive his education plan and reduce the influence of Tocco, a Romney appointee and former adviser to Governors William Weld and Paul Cellucci.

Governors appoint the trustees, except for two voting student members, but the board chooses its own chairman. However, five members can call a special meeting to change the leadership at any time.

The appointments were the latest in a series of shakeups of the state's education leadership, including appointments of new chairmen of the Board of Education and the Board of Higher Education.

In interviews following the morning meeting at UMass-Lowell, some new trustees said the leadership of the reconstituted board should reflect Patrick's agenda.

"I'm a little disappointed," said Karam, president of First Bristol Corp., a development company in Fall River.

"I think it was a reasonable request" to delay the vote, he said. "You have five new trustees, you have four new student trustees, and you have a new governor ... I think on broad-based issues, on the overall direction of the university, it's important for the chairman and the governor to be aligned."

Another Patrick appointee, Henry Thomas, president of the Urban League of Springfield, agreed.

"I do think that in light of the fact that the governor has a cradle-to-career vision for the future of education in this state, he should at least be given proper attention and respect," said Thomas, who until recently served on the state Board of Education.

New members stopped short of saying that Tocco and Patrick's priorities clash, although there is a widespread assumption that Patrick wants a new board chairman. Karam said he would not serve another stint as chairman because he already heads the board of governors of the Caritas Christi Health System.

Johnston said the move to delay the vote was aimed at giving new members time to get up to speed and was not "personally directed."

"We felt strongly we should be given some time to make judgments on the leadership and direction of the university," he said.

A spokesman for the governor's office declined to comment on whether the vote represented a setback and said the governor was committed to working with the current leadership.

The four new trustees, two student trustees, and standing trustee Janet Pearl abstained from the chairmanship vote. One new member, Kerri Osterhaus, a Hudson physician who received her medical degree from the UMass Medical School, could not attend the meeting.



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(above) Michael A. D'Ambrosio G (left) talks with Clarence Hu of Integration Appliance, Inc. during Thursday's Career Fair.

(right) Julia Z. Yu '10 (right) speaks with Derek Choy and Grace Ulvevadet at the eBay booth.

Photography by Eric D. Schmiedl

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Solution to Sudoku
from page 9

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6	8	9	5	3	1	4
9	6	1	2	5	7	3
8	7	2	4	1	3	5
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Medical Offers Support To Sexual Assault Victims

Assault, from Page 1

issues.

Lieutenant Albert F. Pierce, Jr. of the MIT Police, who is in charge of the case, did not return calls for comment.

According to an informational sheet provided by Maryanne Kirkbride of MIT Medical, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded MIT Medical \$200,000 in 2005 to fund activities related to sexual assault issues.

The grant has allowed greater distribution of informational brochures, more sexual assault training sessions, and the formation of the Community Response Group that discusses sexual violence issues, Kirkbride said. There are many sexual assault resources available whose main goal is to “create a place where people can feel safe enough to come tell us when bad things happen,” she said.



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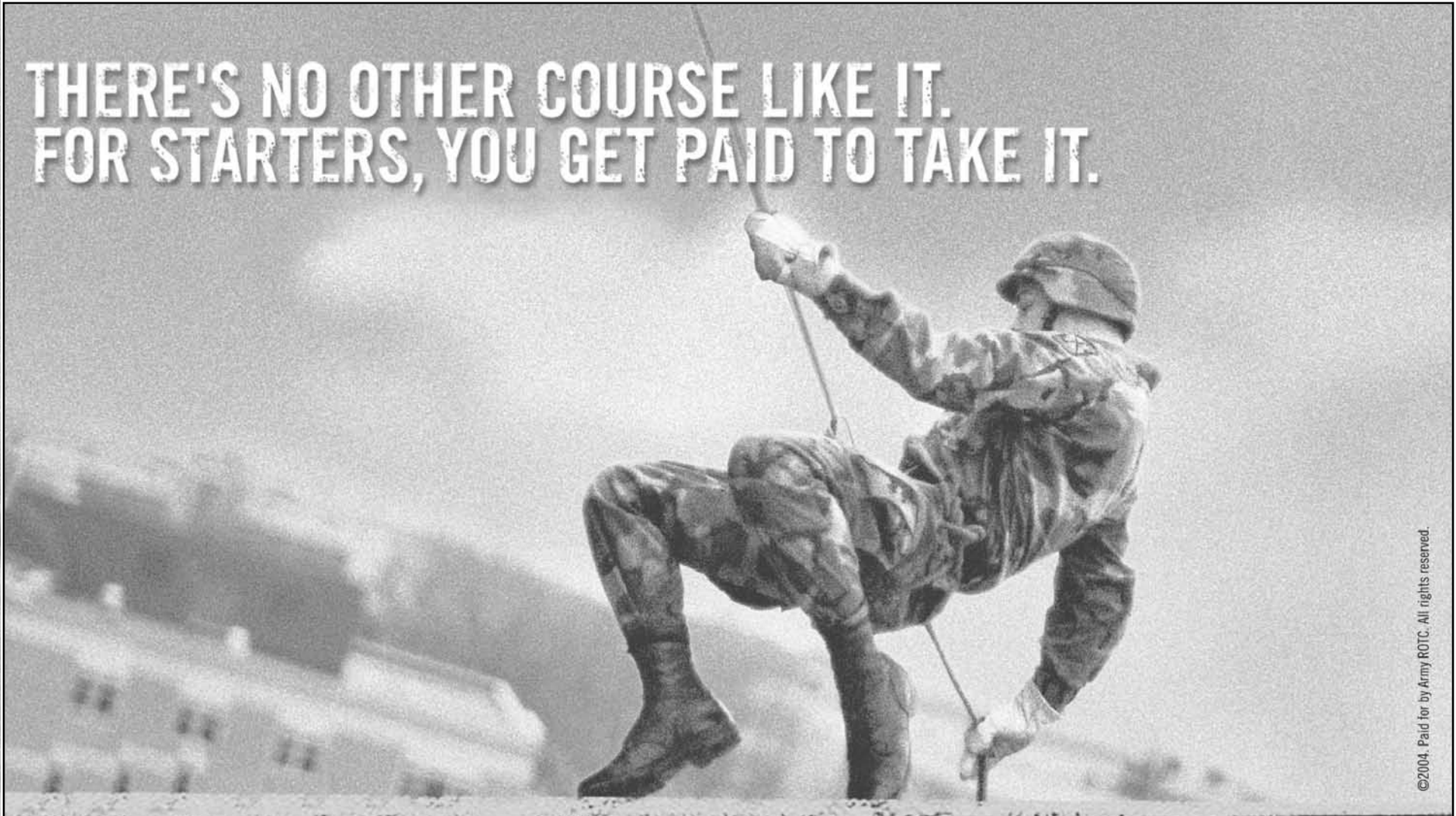
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Many Four-Year Institutions Ignore SAT Essay Scores

By Linda K. Wertheimer
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Hundreds of universities, including several top schools, ignore or pay little heed to students' scores on the writing section of the SAT in admissions decisions, skeptical about how well the essay reflects writing skills.

Reservations about the validity of the essay portion of the writing exam frustrate students who spend hours and sometimes thousands of dollars preparing for it and raise questions about the test's future.

Criticism about the essay has been building for more than a year since an MIT professor's experiment indicated that students could get high scores simply by writing longer and throwing in big words.

Georgetown University, Smith College, and MIT are among the schools that ignore the writing score altogether, while Wellesley College, Tufts University, and Harvard take varying approaches, with none placing high importance on the score.

Students get only 25 minutes to read the essay question and answer it, too little time to produce a valuable writing sample, said Deborah Shaver, Smith's director of admissions.

"This is not great writing," Shaver said. "These aren't higher-level learning measures."

The College Board, which administers the test, said its surveys and checks of university Web sites show that 56 percent of the roughly 1,000 four-year colleges do not use the writing section for admissions, although the overwhelming majority of the nation's 61 most selective colleges use it in some fashion.

College Board officials said universities' shunning of the writing test is not necessarily an indictment of the test. They said colleges are awaiting results of research to see if students with higher scores on the SAT writing exam also are high performers in writing classes in college.

The two-part writing test includes multiple-choice grammar questions, but it is the essay that is drawing the sparks in admissions circles. Students read a quotation and a question asking them to write a persuasive essay and support their position with examples from their reading, studies, experience, or observations.

Many test-preparation centers boast that they can train students to get high scores by writing five simple paragraphs, including a main idea, three examples, and a conclusion. Such an approach, test critics say, reflects seventh-grade work more than that of a college-bound high school student.

Students preparing recently for the Oct. 6 SAT exam at a Princeton Review center in Newton said the colleges' varying policies about the writing section are exasperating.

"It's a real shame," said Eva Jacob, 16, a junior at Brookline High School. "I feel it's what I've prepared the most for."

But Matt Gornstein, 17, a senior at Newton North High School, said he agreed with critics who say that writing the essay is a simple exercise.

"There's almost a formula to it," Gornstein said. "They train you to write an essay almost exactly the way they tell you not to do in school."

The debate about the writing test follows decades of controversy about whether the SAT effectively and fairly measures the college readiness of students, particularly those who cannot afford coaching. The College Board added the writing section and revamped other parts of the SAT after threats by the president of the University of California in 2001 to dump the entire test in the system's admissions process unless it was improved and writing was added.

Beginning in spring 2005, the SAT was expanded from the traditional two sections of reading and math to three. The test time grew from three hours to three hours and 45 minutes, and the point total rose from 1,600 to 2,400, with each subject worth 800 points.

Laurence Bunin, the College

Board's senior vice president, said preliminary studies suggest that "the writing test and the score that results is a highly reliable, highly valid test."

Others say the evidence is not convincing. The National Collegiate Athletic Association will not count writing test results as eligibility criteria for Division I and II athletes until it sees more conclusive research from the College Board and others that the test can predict student performance, an NCAA spokeswoman said.

Georgetown, one of the more vocal opponents of the test, advertises its decision to ignore the writing score on its Web site.

"There is not enough information in place to support the value of it," said Charles Deacon, Georgetown's director of undergraduate admissions. The College Board "also implemented a writing section that we thought was highly manipulative and coachable," Deacon said.

MIT excludes writing from the mix when it plots students' SAT test results on a chart to see how the average applicant did, said Stuart Schmill '86, interim director of admissions. Although the test is a few years old, the first MIT freshmen to have taken it only just finished their first year at the college, Schmill noted. Like other colleges, MIT wants to compare students' SAT writing scores to their performance on other writing measures the university administers.

Schmill said he wants to see whether students' scores on the SAT exam can predict whether they will be good writers in college or whether they simply learned how to craft a particular essay in a rote manner.

A College Board study, published in January, said training not only significantly improved students' writing scores, but also their writing skills.

Les Perelman, director of MIT's writing program, disagrees. He became so frustrated by what he believed were formulaic essays that

freshmen were turning in after the SAT essay was introduced that he conducted an experiment: He trained three high school students, who had taken the SAT once already, to insert some factual errors, use big words, and ignore logical thought on the SAT essay, and each received a near-perfect score.

"They've learned to write paragraph essays where they don't care whether the facts are correct," Perelman said. "We have to spend a year in freshman composition deprogramming them."

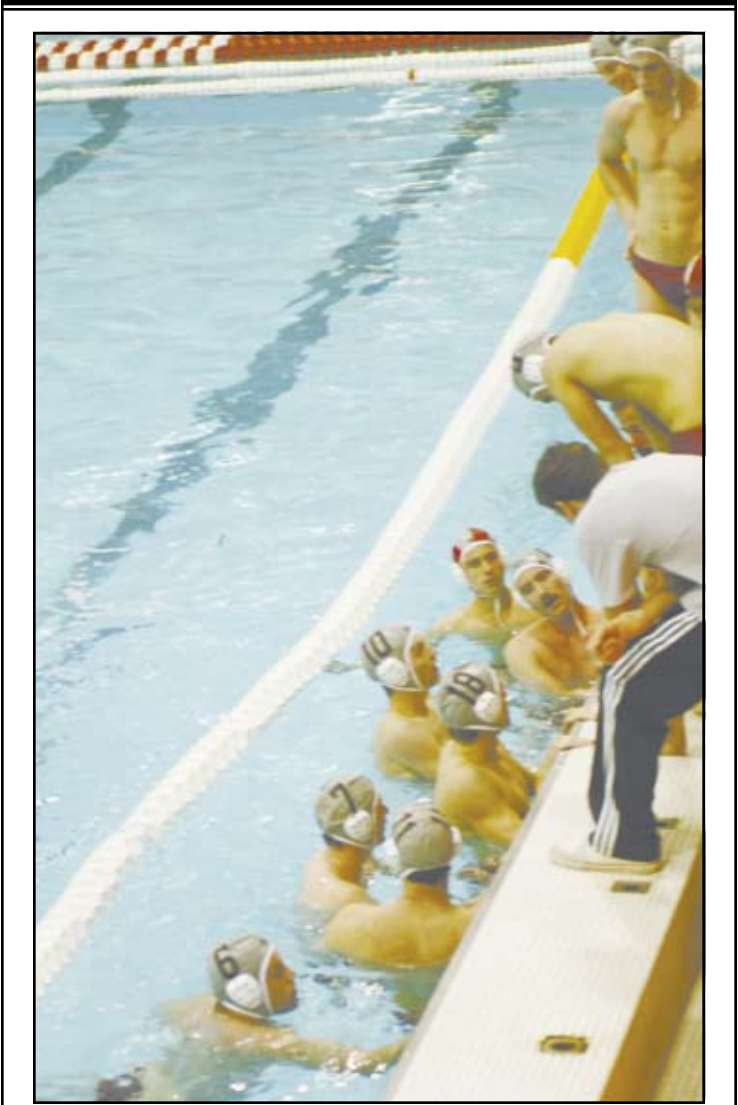
Bunin and other College Board officials contend that Perelman's

findings are inconclusive, since he only worked with a few students. But they acknowledge that factual accuracy was not crucial in the scoring.

"What the essay portion is about is a student's ability to express himself in writing," Bunin said. "This is not a research paper."

Controversy about coaching permeates the admissions industry, said Kelly Walter, BU's executive director of admissions.

"With the SAT essay, they may be prompted, but at least you know it's in a proctored environment, and it's not an edited piece of writing," Walter said.



ANDREA ROBLES

The men's water polo team huddles together in a time out during the first period of yesterday's game against Harvard University. The Engineers lost 8-11.

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SPORTS

Tech Allows Two Touchdowns in Last Five Minutes, Loses 17-10

By James Kramer
DAPER STAFF

Framingham State sophomore Roland Gervais hauled in a 19-yard touchdown pass from senior Eian Bain with 1:53 left in regulation to cap a late fourth-quarter rally as the Rams upended the MIT football team 17-10 on Saturday at Steinbrenner Stadium. After being kept out of the end zone for the first three quarters, Framingham State (1-1, 1-0) scored 14 points in the final five minutes to push past MIT (0-2, 0-1) in the New England Football Conference opener for both schools.

Saturday's home opener featured more defense than offense, although MIT wasted no time in lighting the board after rushing for 27 yards on its opening drive to set up a 20-yard field goal for kicker Corey Garvey '10. Joseph T. Goldschmid '08 set the stage for the Engineers' first score of the afternoon after recovering a Framingham State fumble at the Rams' 30-yard line.

Framingham State responded with a field goal of its own midway through the second quarter. As the Engineers punted from deep in their own territory, a stiff wind enabled the Rams to take advantage of a short field. A 33-yard pass from Bain to

James Hanafin put Ashley Baker in great position for the 25-yard try. Earlier in the drive, a potential Hanafin touchdown reception was negated after a penalty. Baker had a chance to put Framingham State in the lead just before the half, although two attempts from 23 yards both sailed right.

A great defensive effort by MIT, including a 10-yard sack by Brian H. Mickle '10, ignited the Engineers' lone touchdown drive in the third quarter. Showcasing a balanced attack, MIT picked up 33 yards on four carries by four different backs for the go-ahead score. Robert C. Utz '09 provided the highlight of the drive with a 23-yard scamper through the middle of the defense, while Benjamin L. Grannan '09 plowed three yards up the middle with 8:18 on the clock for the touchdown.

The Engineers protected their lead until midway through the final quarter when the Rams responded to MIT's ground attack with a clock-eating possession of their own. Shawn Miller, who finished the afternoon with 89 yards on 27 carries, sparked the Framingham State offense, while Bain's push from one-yard out knotted the score at 10 with 4:44 left in the tilt.

On MIT's next possession, the Rams received a huge defensive lift after Bruce Rich picked off a pass in

the middle of the field on Tech's second play of the drive. Framingham State capitalized on the unfortunate turnover as Bain connected with Corey Steele for a 13-yard strike before finding Gervais on a slant for the game-winner.

MIT out-rushed Framingham by seven yards, 184-177, although the Rams won the aerial battle with two quarterbacks commanding the play. Starter Patrick Franey finished 8-of-21 for 82 yards, while Bain closed 4-of-7 for 69 yards and a touchdown. Anthony Kewley paced the Rams' receiving unit with five catches for 41 yards. On the ground, Miller led the charge for Framingham, although Luke Guarino averaged over nine yards a carry en route to 84 yards.

Thomas C. Scotton '08 rushed for 75 yards on 17 carries to captain MIT's ground game, although the Engineers looked comfortable with their other options in the back. Grannan picked up 39 yards on 10 carries and DeRon M. Brown '10 had 35 yards on 10 carries to add to the totals. Michael P. Fitzgerald '10 and Kevin T. Vogelsang '09 each hauled in three catches for a total of 60 yards to account for all of MIT's receiving production.

MIT retakes the field in an away game against Nichols College on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007 at 1 p.m.

Volleyball Win Streak Reaches Six as Zhong Sets Record For Aces

By Mindy Brauer
DAPER STAFF

The MIT women's volleyball team extended its winning streak to six after defeating New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference foe Worcester Polytechnic Institute 30-7, 30-7, 30-13 and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth 30-20, 30-15, 30-19 in a pair of matches on Tuesday night. In the conference nightcap, Rose Zhong '08 tallied an Institute-record 13 aces, recording 10 in the opening game, and added a team-high 12 digs.

WPI (3-10, 0-3 NEWMAC) quickly established a three-point lead in the first game, but MIT (10-1, 3-0 NEWMAC) picked up the next two points and took the lead for good on back-to-back kills by Katherine C. Rowe '10. MIT's seven-point run ended on a service error, which brought WPI within three at 7-4. MIT captured the next point and followed it up with Zhong serving the next 19 points to extend the lead to 27-4.

MIT's success at the service line continued in the second game as Lindsay E. Hunting '09 served the first 14 points. WPI got on the board after a Tech hitting miscue, but it could not overcome the deficit as MIT cruised to victory.

In the third game, MIT moved ahead 4-0, but WPI narrowed the gap to two to make the score 5-3. MIT scored seven of the next eight points for its largest lead of the game at 12-4. However, WPI battled back and cut the margin to four at 14-10. MIT countered with a 16-3 run to close out the match.

Rowe was a force at the net,

amassing 17 kills on 20 errorless attempts for a hitting percentage of .850, and led the way with three blocks. Jennifer Li '11 chipped in eight kills, while Anna D. Dikina '11 and Barden E. Cleeland '10 notched four apiece. Cleeland added a pair of aces to her statistics line, and Lindsay E. Hunting '09 registered seven digs and two aces. Carrie C. Buchanan '08 tallied 10 digs, while Dikina posted five in one game. Through two games, Amanda J. Morris '08 dished out 30 assists, and Cassy A. Piela '11 capped the night with 11.

WPI's Kate Woodman posted a match-high 14 digs, and Christina Grant paced the offense with three kills. Nikki Croteau finished the night with six assists.

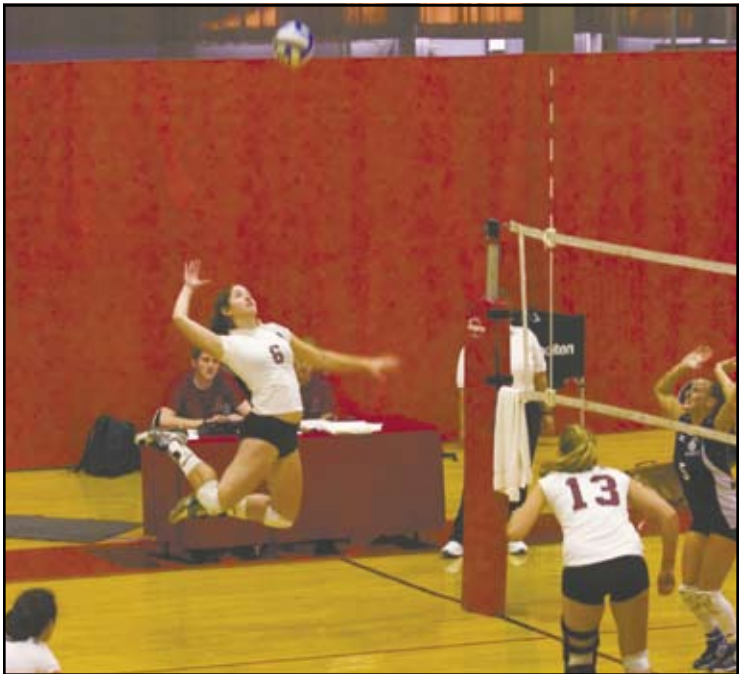
In the Engineers' non-conference match with UMass Dartmouth (3-6), Rowe and Cleeland each registered a hitting percentage of .391 as Rowe posted a match-high 12 kills and Cleeland tallied 11. Hunting notched six aces, followed by three from Buchanan and two each by Dikina, Morris, Zhong, Katrina M. Ellison '10, and Li. Cleeland paced the blocking corps with three blocks, and Buchanan collected 11 digs. Morris totaled 26 assists and nine digs in two games as Ellison added seven digs. Piela distributed 11 assists in the third game.

Nazareth Cardoso paced UMass Dartmouth's offense with six kills, while Aly Zagame picked up eight digs. Mellanie Staiger finished with 12 assists for the Corsairs.

MIT continues non-conference play this weekend when it hosts its 16-team, two-day invitational in Rockwell Cage. The tournament begins on Friday, Sept. 21, 2007 at 4 p.m.



MIT defensive back Steven M. Nunez '09 tackles Framington State College's freshman running back Shawn Miller during the second quarter of the Engineer's 10-17 home opener loss on Saturday at Steinbrenner Stadium. The football team's next home game will be Saturday, Sept. 29.



Kelsey K. Cappelle '11 sets up a textbook spike against UMass-Dartmouth on Tuesday night. The Engineers won the match (30-20, 30-25, 30-19).

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

- Friday, Sept. 21, 2007
- Women's Tennis, ITA New England Championship
8 a.m., duPont Tennis Courts
- Women's Volleyball, MIT Invitational
4 p.m., Rockwell Cage
- Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007
- Women's Tennis, ITA New England Championship
8 a.m., duPont Tennis Courts
- Women's Volleyball, MIT Invitational
10 a.m., Rockwell Cage
- Women's Soccer, Alumnae Event
11 a.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
- Women's Soccer vs. Mount Holyoke
1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
- Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007
- Women's Tennis, ITA New England Championship
8 a.m., duPont Tennis Courts
- Monday, Sept. 24, 2007
- Men's Soccer vs. Emmanuel College
4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

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